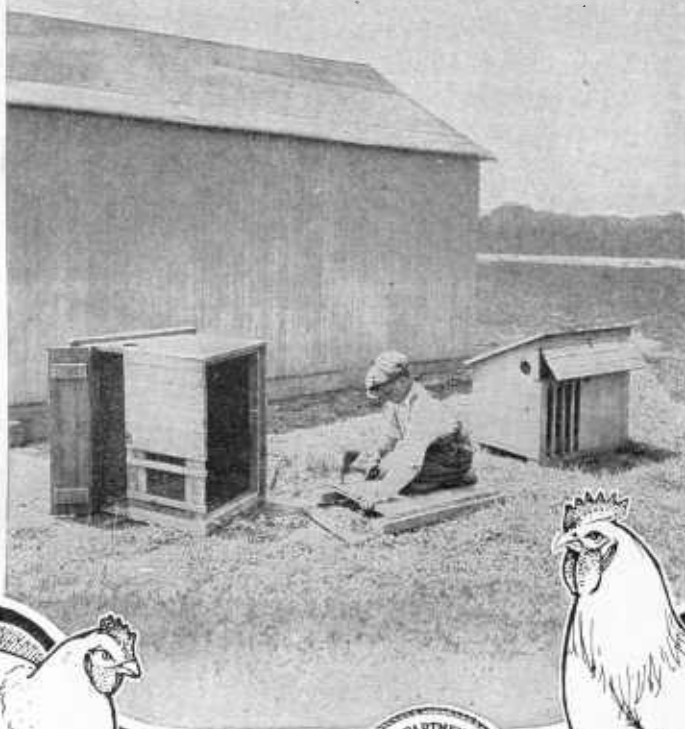


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FARMERS' BULLETIN-1107  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# BROOD COOPS AND APPLIANCES



**T**HIS BULLETIN has been written briefly and in simple terms for the beginner, and especially for members of the Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs.

Poultry-club members are successful when they give their birds good care. Fowls of all kinds, both young and mature, will thrive and yield a profit when given proper care and attention.

Contribution from the Bureau of Animal Industry

JOHN R. MOHLER, Chief

Washington, D. C.

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# BROOD COOPS AND APPLIANCES.

D. M. GREEN,  
*Animal Husbandry Division.*

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## BROOD COOPS FOR HEN AND CHICKS.

**E**VERY boy and girl club member should provide a good coop for the mother hen and little chickens. If you do not have one already, it should be built before it is time for the little chicks to hatch. Many boys and girls build their coops in the wintertime so

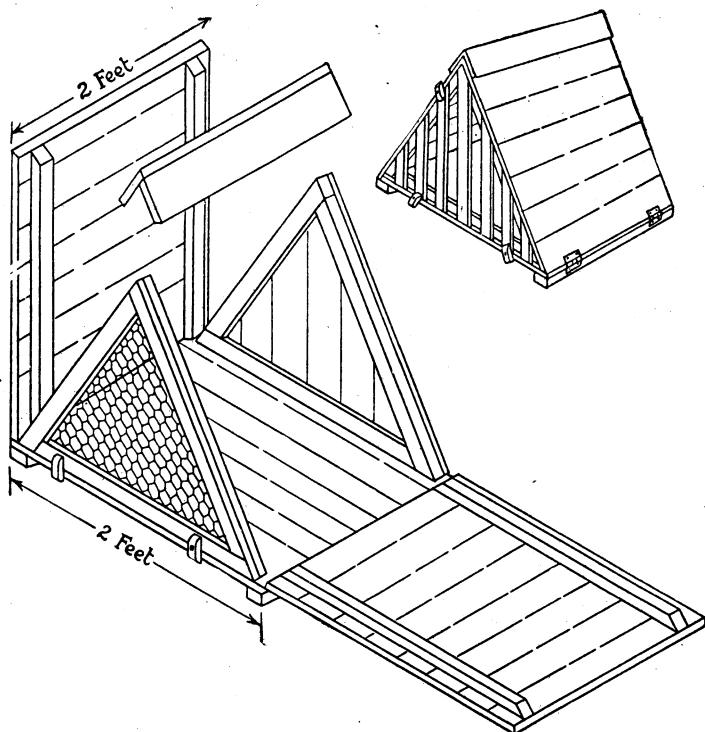


FIG. 1.—“A”-shaped brood coop for hen and chickens.

as to have them ready for use in the spring, and when this is done a nest box can be placed in the coop and used for the sitting hen. A properly constructed coop is a good place for hatching chickens as

well as for brooding them. When chickens are hatched in the brood coop, however, the nest should be removed and the coop thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before putting the hen in with her chickens.

The two brood coops ("A" shaped and box coop as illustrated in figs. 1 and 2) can be made easily from dry-goods boxes or other available material. The "A"-shaped coop, as shown in the illustration on page 3, is collapsible so that it can be easily cleaned or stored away in winter. Or if desirable, it may be built stationary by

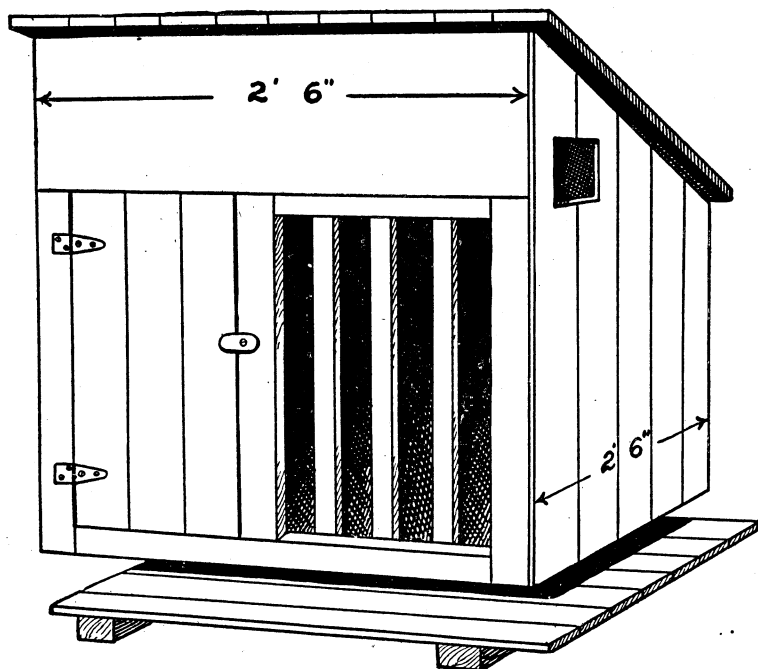


FIG. 2.—Box brood coop for hen and chicks.

simply nailing fast the top, back, and slats in front and placing it on a removable bottom. A wire-screen door (1-inch mesh or smaller) of some sort should be provided, as shown in the illustration of the collapsible coop (fig. 1), to place over the front at night. This will prevent rats and other enemies from entering the coop and killing the chickens, and will also keep the little chicks confined early in the morning, when the grass is wet. A hook or clasp should be put on the door to hold it firmly in place.

The mother hen should be confined to the brood coop until the chicks are weaned. This will give the little chicks a better start in life and prevent loss from storms, hawks, etc.

Floors should be constructed for the brood coops to rest on. This will keep the chickens dry, and if kept clean and well disinfected it will prevent losses from disease. It is a good plan to keep some dry

sand or chaff on the floor under the coop. This helps to keep the coop dry and makes cleaning easy.

To make brood coops rain-proof, cover all cracks on the top, back, and sides with strips of wood or tin, or, better still, cover with roofing paper. Construct the brood coop so well that it can be used year after year.

### COOP FOR SHIPPING EXHIBITION FOWLS.

Club members who wish to ship their fowls by express and have them arrive in the best possible condition will want a special shipping coop like that shown in figure 3. Such a coop is solid and substantial and will last for a long time. It may be made from boards taken from dry-goods boxes or almost any other half-inch material. Boards more than one-half inch thick should not be used, as they make the coop too heavy. The coop may be put together with nails, with the exception of the slats or cover on the top, which should be put on with screws or hinges and hooks so that it may be easily opened. This is very important, as the top or cover must be opened each time the coop is used, and if put on with nails it is soon broken and the coop spoiled. The following dimensions should be used in constructing the coop:

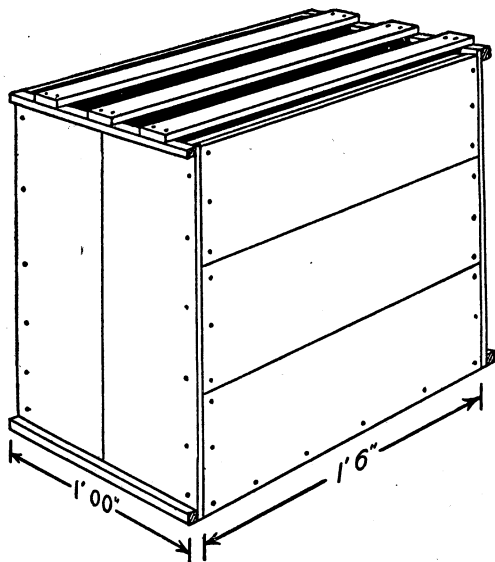


FIG. 3.—Coop for shipping exhibition fowls.

*For one hen or cock*—12 inches wide, 18 inches long, and 24 inches high.

*For two hens or hen and cock*—12 inches wide, 24 inches long, and 24 inches high.

*For a trio or two hens and one cock*—18 inches wide, 24 inches long, and 24 inches high.

*For an exhibition pen or four hens and cock*—24 inches wide, 24 inches long, and 24 inches high.

In preparing for shipment a small quantity of hay, straw, or dry shavings should be placed in the bottom of the coop to absorb the moisture, and two cups or cans provided, one for feed and one for water. The cans should be nailed securely to the side walls in oppo-

site corners, about halfway to the top of the coop. A tag or card plainly marked, showing the destination of the shipment as well as the return address, must be tacked or pasted on the outside where it can be plainly seen.

### EXHIBITION COOP.

The exhibition or show coop illustrated in figure 4 can be easily made and is for the use of poultry-club members in exhibiting fowls at county and school fairs or other exhibitions. It should not be

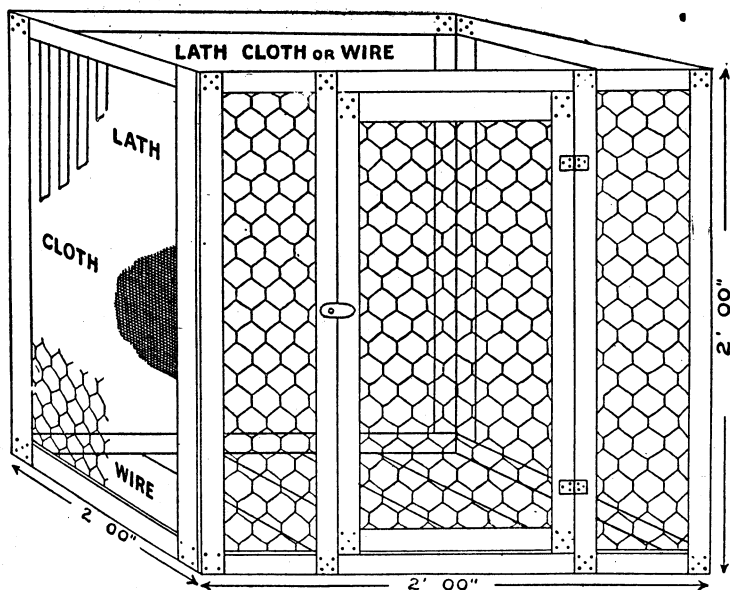


FIG. 4.—Homemade exhibition coop.

used for shipping poultry, but may be used to take the birds to the show if carried by wagon or other vehicle. It can be made from a dry-goods box or almost any other available material. The floor should be solid and the framework of wooden strips 2 inches wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. The top, back, and sides may be covered with lath, wire netting, or any kind of thin, strong cloth. The front should be of 2-inch wire netting. If it is impossible to obtain netting, however, lath may be used, but the strips should be placed about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart so as to afford as much opportunity as possible to see the birds. The coop is made 2 feet wide, 2 feet deep, and 2 feet high, and will accommodate one mature bird or a pair of chickens. If more than this are to be exhibited together, the coop should be made larger in proportion to the number of fowls it is to accommodate.

Every poultry-club member who intends to exhibit his birds should have one or more exhibition coops of this nature, depending upon the number of specimens he intends to exhibit. Birds can be trained and

conditioned in these coops before the exhibition, and after becoming accustomed to them they will appear to better advantage when being judged and are more likely to win a prize. Furthermore, when birds are shown in coops of this kind that are uniform in size and style, not only is the appearance of the showroom improved but the individual exhibit is much more attractive.

Training and exhibiting some of the best specimens of both old and young birds every fall is an interesting and important part of boys' and girls' poultry-club work. The boy or girl who is able to produce the best has much to be proud of, and each one should take part in this educational but friendly competition.

### DRY-MASH HOPPER.

The dry-mash hopper (fig. 5) is intended for use inside the laying house. It should be hung against the wall about 8 or 10 inches from the floor, or as high as possible so long as the fowls can reach the mash. This prevents the mash from being thrown out and wasted. It may be made from boards taken from dry-goods boxes or other thin material. There are three compartments—one for grit, one for shell, and one for dry mash. The projections from the partitions are to prevent the fowls from mixing the dry mash with the grit and shell, as well as from wasting it. The feeding of dry mash is a better practice than feeding wet or moist mash, as it requires less work and the hens can regulate their feed to suit their needs.

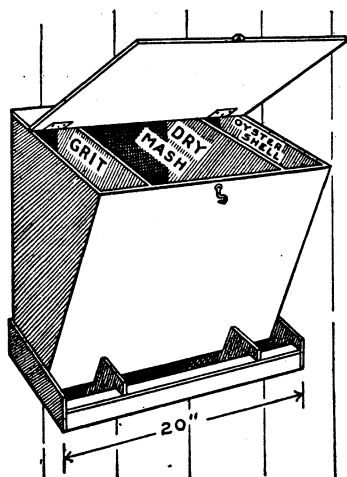


FIG. 5.—Dry-mash hopper.

### DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

A satisfactory way to provide drinking water is to use an ordinary stone, iron, or galvanized dish, pot, or crock (the size depending upon the number of birds), placing it on a shelf or platform high enough from the floor to prevent the fowls from scratching litter, etc., into it.

Various styles of drinking fountains for both fowls and chicks can be purchased from poultry-supply dealers.



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- Bureau of Chemistry Circular 61, revised, How to Kill and Bleed Market Poultry.

For copies of these bulletins or further information on poultry raising, write to your poultry-club leader, or to the Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry,

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**